Text of Sen. Kennedy's Statement

BOSTON, Sept. 23 (UPI)—The text of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's statement today on the 1976 presidential race:

I appreciate your coming this morning. As I said in my brief statement yesterday, I have requested this conference to announce my future political plans, and I very much wanted to make the announcement here in Massachusetts.

From the campaigns of my brothers before me, I know that seeking the nation's highest office demands a candidate's undivided attention and his deepest personal commitment. If any candidate is unable to make that commitment, he does a disservice to his country and to his party by undertaking the effort.

My primary responsibilities are at home. It has become quite apparent to me that I would be unable to make a full commitment to a campaign for the presidency. I simply cannot do that to my wife and children and the other members of my family.

Therefore, in 1976, I will not be a candidate for President or Vice President of the United States.

This decision is firm, final and unconditiondal. There is absolutely no circumstance or event that will alter the decision. I will not accept the nomination. I will not accept a draft. I will oppose any effort to place my name in nomination in any state or at the national convention, and I will oppose any effort to promote my candidacy in any other way.

I reached this decision after discussion with my wife and the other members of my family. I have chosen to announce the decision now in order to ease the apprehensions within my family about the possibility of my candidacy, as well as to clarify the situation within my party.

I shall do all I can in the two years ahead to insure the success of my party and its nominees. I appreciate the confidence of those who have expressed their faith in me and who have indicated their support for me as a presidentidal candidate.

For the past 12 years, I have served the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate. In 1976, I expect to be a candidate for re-election. I take pride in my service to the people of this commonwealth. In their service, much can be done to influence the direction of the nation, and it is in their service that I have found the greatest satisfaction of my public life.